

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 7-9 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 1, the Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 has been cancelled, and that the Examiner's objection to the Drawings is overcome.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 3, item 3, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 has been cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 6, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkins (U.S. Patent No. 4,508,024 – hereinafter Perkins) in view of Hedgpeth (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,838 – hereinafter Hedgpeth). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 6, item 7, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennick (U.S. Patent No. 5,189,945) in view of Hedgpeth. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from independent claim 1.

In the device disclosed in Perkins, intake vents 42 are positioned on the container 12 and exhaust ports 43 are positioned at the top cover 13. (See Perkins, at FIG. 1).

In the device disclosed in Hedgepeth, a grill 20 has a grill tub 22 with ventilation apertures 45 and a grill hood 24 with ventilation ports 74 to exhaust gasses. (See Hedgepeth, for example, in FIGS. 1-3). Adjacent to the ventilation ports 74, there are slide vent controls 76 to regulate airflow. (See Hedgepeth, at col. 6, lines 49-56).

In contrast, in the subject application, the cover 30 of this invention includes both the inlet holes 31 and outlet holes 32.

Further, the Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to combine Perkins and Hedgepeth to allow for regulation of a fictitious air intake, to desirably control a cooking chamber temperature. But Applicants respectfully submit that since the adjustable intake vents 42 and 63 and exhaust ports 43 and 64 of Perkins already regulate airflow and temperature of the cooking chamber, there would be no motivation to combine Perkins with Hedgepeth.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 9 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, which depend from independent claim 1, and claims 10-17, which depend from independent claim 9, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

In the Office Action, at page 6, item 8, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated over Makris (UK Patent No. 2 286 111 – hereinafter Makris) in view of Hedgepeth. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Amended, independent claim 8 recites: "...a heat-reflecting unit seated adjacent to the grill unit, reflecting heat radiated from the heating unit to the grill unit, and containing water therein to prevent materials dropping from the food from being burned...."

The device disclosed in Makris has a water reservoir 15 that serves as a sump for liquids falling from the food, the reflector 24 does not contain water therein, and is positioned such that no materials dropping from cooking food would fall on the reflector 24. (See Makris, at page 2, lines 6-9, and at page 3, lines 3-10).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Michael A. Bush
Michael A. Bush
Registration No. 48,893

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501